

REPORT ON THE PUBLIC

ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA

BY

DAVID Y. THOMAS

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REPORT ON THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF
FLORIDA

BY

DAVID Y. THOMAS

Professor in the University of Arkansas

(From the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1906
Volume II, pages 149-158)

From

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REPORT ON THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA.^a

By DAVID Y. THOMAS, Ph. D.,

Formerly Professor of History and Political Science in the University of Florida.

Shortly after the American occupation of Florida, when a great deal of ink was being spilled over Governor Jackson's conduct in the Territory, a wag remarked that Florida was "very productive—of documents." Unfortunately the climate, both literally and figuratively, does not seem so well adapted to preservation as it is to production. However, the total which has been preserved is not inconsiderable. This report will make no attempt to give an account of the Spanish archives as such. The most of those in Florida at the time of the transfer appear to have been retained in spite of the desire of the Spanish to remove them, and they were put in charge of special keepers at Pensacola and St. Augustine. Many years later the legislature asked Congress to try to secure others from Habana. During the civil war the State appointed keepers of the archives. These facts are mentioned to show that Florida has not been indifferent to the Spanish records, even if those of more modern times are not cared for as one could wish. After the civil war the Spanish records were kept for a time in the office of the surveyor-general at Tallahassee, but a few years ago all not relating to land claims were shipped to the Librarian of Congress.

Respecting the archives of the American period, one may be pardoned for saying that they might have been kept better. In the first place, in earlier days no sharp distinctions were made as to subject-matter, the same volume sometimes containing records not closely related. In the second place, some of the records have been allowed to pass out of the offices to which they properly belong. Excepting those of recent years, they have not been carefully arranged and can not be found at a moment's notice.

The Florida archives do not present a very rich field to the investigator in any particular line. Possibly more is said in the earlier records about Indians than any other one topic. For many years this

^a For report on the local archives of St. Augustine see American Historical Association Report, 1905, I, pp. 339-352.

was the most important topic in Florida, being surpassed at times only by that of banks and bonds. On the latter question very little will be found which is not in print. Some light might be thrown on elections by a study of the archives, not, however, on the election of 1876. No very great amount is to be found concerning the administration of affairs during the civil war, yet much more than has found its way into print. A few papers relating to boundary disputes, now in the office of the surveyor-general of the United States, will soon become the property of the State. A great deal of matter relating to land surveys and claims will come from the same office, but there is very little in this not already published which will interest anyone without a claim.

TERRITORIAL AND STATE ARCHIVES.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

The amount of matter preserved in the governor's office is not very large. Some of the older papers have passed out into the vault of the secretary of state. They will be mentioned in connection with that office because found there, and they are likely to remain there for some time. The matter now in the governor's office consists of a few bound volumes and a number of papers, the latter in filing cases. There is no index to either. The governor was absent at the time of the writer's call at his office, but the latter feels sure that the following is a fair representation of what it contains.

Messages, inaugural addresses, etc. Begins with inaugural address of Governor W. D. Moseley. No date. His first message to the legislature is dated July 1, 1845. The volume closes with a paper dated December 28, 1858. Hand copies.

Letter book, one volume, April, 1836–October, 1836. R. K. Call, governor. Three volumes cover Drew's administration, beginning January 6, 1877. From February 2, 1878, to July 10, 1879, not found. The first of Bloxham's letters are found in the last volume of Drew. The next volume, marked 4, covers May, 1884–November, 1885. Another, marked 1, covers January 7, 1883–June 4, 1885. One, marked 5, covers October 23, 1886–February 16, 1887. Thereafter the numbers run consecutively to 31, closing August 27, 1894, with occasional overlapping of dates. Letter-press copies. Some are on very thin paper and are almost illegible.

General correspondence (governor's office), September, 1895, to date. Type-written letter-press copies.

Minutes of cabinet and board meeting, 1869–1892.

Pardon records, May 31, 1878, to date, three volumes.

Board of pardons, August 8, 1894–July 21, 1897.

Letters by secretary of pardon boards, January, 1892–July, 1894.

Applications for pardons, 1887–1906.

Letter book, duplicate from letter book of adjutant-general, July 21, 1891–July 7, 1894.

Letters of adjutant-general and commissioner of pensions, May 5, 1883–August 25, 1895.

Minutes of board of commissioners of State institutions, February 19, 1892, to date. Two volumes.

Board of drainage commission, No. 1, May 27, 1905-April 4, 1906.

Pay patients entering the hospital since January 1, 1901.

Directory of officers, n. d., Fleming, governor.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Hon. H. Clay Crawford, secretary of state, was present and did all in his power to facilitate the investigation of the archives in his office. He appreciates very keenly the disorder and confusion that has resulted from years of neglect, and has made some effort to remedy the same, but is waiting now to see if the legislature will not provide room and help to carry on the work. He had recovered a lot of matter from the coal bin, and the writer proceeded there first to see if anything had been overlooked. Several boxes were found in the garret of the capitol building containing papers, some of them tied in bundles, many of them loose and in great confusion. The floor also was covered with papers. At least some of them are of value and should be preserved. In the course of a brief rummage among them the writer found two of the original papers relating to the contested election of 1876. One of them was carried to the office of the secretary of state, the other was delivered to the clerk of the supreme court. Several of the famous bonds issued by the Territory in 1838 for the benefit of the Union Bank were discovered in the same place. They had been canceled. Also four bound volumes of New York and Charleston newspapers, dating back to the 1840's.

In the same garret were found numerous volumes relating to the census and the registration of voters. When these were reported to the secretary of state, he at once ordered their removal, stating that he thought that all such had already been taken out. A few days before this the writer had applied to the officer in charge of the census for certain information, but was assured by that officer that he had no returns previous to 1885. When these returns were carried to his office he positively refused to allow them to be brought in, on the ground that he had no room for them and that they were worthless. They were finally stored in a room in the basement.

In the following classification, when not otherwise specified, the records will be found in the office. The most of the others are in the secretary's vault. The few found in the garret will be referred to as in "basement." Very little care has been taken in the arrangement of matter in the vault. There is no general index, nor any special ones, except to the more recent records. The confusion is likely to continue until the legislature provides room and employs an archivist to classify and index the records.

Executive correspondence, five volumes. The first contains Duval's letters 1821-1839; also some election returns. The second contains letters of Acting

Governor J. D. Westcott, January 11, 1830–November 16, 1831. The third begins with a letter from Governor John Branch, November 10, 1844, relating to the Union Bank. Message of January 10, 1845, printed and pasted in. Special and veto messages. Last from Branch, May 13, 1845. The fourth includes letters of Governor Moseley, July 2, 1845–September 29, 1849; Governor Thomas Brown, October 7, 1849–November 22, 1852 (message); James E. Broome, December 29, 1854–October 3, 1857. The fifth contains letters, messages, etc., but mostly appointments, July, 1873–October, 1876 (vault). Last in wretched state of preservation.

Notes from preceding:

First letter from W. P. Duval, governor, to John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War. Pensacola, June 1822. Indians have lost crops, are in very bad condition, and are very uneasy. Military in possession of public buildings, which are very much needed for city and Territorial officials. Thinks that not more than one company should be kept in the city and that it should be subject to the governor.

July 25, 1822. Indians called on Duval. Complain that Jackson's promise that the lands on which they were to live should soon be marked out had not been fulfilled. Duval's address to them given. He regrets that their great father had not done so. Great chiefs at Washington are very busy and can not do everything quick (*sic*). Sends this address to Secretary Crawford and begs his attention to the matter. Also to Jackson's promise to Chief Blunt, who acted as guide in the Seminole war.

August, 1822. Mary Ann Preats (?), daughter of a white man (John) who lived and died among the Creeks, claims by gift from him two negro women, Nancy and Hannah, who since then had had ten children. She had left all in possession of Chief Econchattamico. He has since sold five without her consent. She also claims five other slaves by right of inheritance. Chiefs should assemble and determine who are rightful owners. Some of these slaves had been purchased by Weatherford and others in violation of the law, having no license. Chief must not sell any more till title is settled. Threatens to send out of the Territory William (?) Bowle, who has married the daughter of the chief unless he walks strait (*sic*). He ought not to have permitted sale.

September 1, 1822, to Governor Pickens, of Alabama. A half-breed (Weatherford) and Elias Lloyd have grossly violated the laws by pretending to purchase nine negroes from the daughter of the chief and have taken them into Alabama. Money paid was counterfeit notes of the United States Bank. Should be arrested and tried.

September 22, 1822. Fleeing from yellow fever.

April, 1823. Letters show dependence on the banks of New Orleans and Mobile.

May, 1823. Reports that the records at St. Augustine are negligently kept. Directed the clerk of the court to take possession and put in order.

August 15, 1823. Gives permission to Mrs. Mary Black to go into the Indian country in order to recover a wench (Sarah), supposed to have three children, if she can recover her peaceably.

September 23, 1823. Citizens of the Territory and the neighboring States have many runaway slaves in the southern part of the peninsula. A number of them have established themselves on Pine Island. They are well armed and refuse to allow Americans to visit the island. Some Spaniards are among them, with a vessel carrying three guns. They employ the negroes to cut lumber and to fish for the Habana market. Requests permission of the President to call out 50 or 60 men to recover them.

March 1, 1824. Proclamation calling legislative committee to meet at a place "about a mile from the deserted fields of Tallahassee, where the old Spanish road is intersected by a small trail running southwardly." This was the beginning of Tallahassee as the capital.

Tallahassee, August 3, 1824. Explains that Tallahassee was chosen because it is in the center of the largest body of rich land in Florida, must "forever remain the center of our population."

January 5, 1825, to G. Humphries, Indian agent. Where owners identify fugitive slaves, surrender them to the marshal to take before the Federal judge at St. Augustine. If white and Indian claim the same slave, he must appear before the judge and defend the rights of the Indian. Must use discretion about removing free negroes from the Indian country.

November 15, 1825. Highflown address to a committee about Lafayette (does not name him), recommending an invitation to visit Florida. Also to exempt his land from taxation.

October 26, 1824. Sent to New Orleans for specie to pay Indians, who were about to depart, for their improvements.

November 25, 1825. Estimates value of property wrecked on Florida coast annually at half a million. This gives excuse for smuggling. Many engaged in smuggling and piracy.

September 1, 1834. Election returns show 103 votes in Leon County. Total for Territory, 2,428.

In the second volume may be found several letters relating to the boundary dispute with Georgia and several relating to Indian troubles. In the third volume some of Governor Moseley's papers, such as letters, inaugural addresses, and messages. August 5, 1845, letter to S. R. Mallory, replying to his request for pardon of certain negroes made in behalf of the owner. As request is backed by the grand jury, he will grant it, if legal to do so before conviction.

August 18, 1845, to Joseph Ellisbey. He learns that Joshua Knowles, secretary of the constitutional convention, deposited the original manuscript records of the convention with him, and that he is desirous of disposing of them for the benefit of the public. Suggests that he deposit them with the secretary of state. The only trace of these found was an incomplete journal noted below.

Proclamations, A to C, January 22, 1866–November 29, 1892, four volumes. D, 1897–1906.

Death warrants, 1897 to date.

Requisitions for fugitives from justice, A to E, February 20, 1869, to date, five volumes (vault).

Secretary's correspondence, July 28, 1845–October, 1900, seven volumes (vault).

Civil and military nominations made by governor during recess, 1834–1836. Not many (vault).

Register of civil officers, 1827 to date, six volumes (vault).

Record of commissions, July 25, 1845–September 26, 1872, forty-eight volumes (vault, except L, which was in the office.) A8–11, 1902–1905, four volumes. B1, 1901–1904. C3–C4, 1902–1905, two volumes. P1–P3, 1905–6, three volumes.

Military commissions, E and B, September 13, 1861–May 2, 1865 (vault).

Record of commissions, State militia, June 6, 1870–April 30, 1875 (vault).

Commissions, letters, etc., July 25, 1849–December 12, 1853, two volumes.

Election returns. In the earlier years no separate book was kept for these. A few may be found in Governor Duval's letter book. The second volume listed above under executive correspondence consists mainly of election returns. Others

may be found in similar or in miscellaneous records. One volume of "Election returns," otherwise unmarked, but evidently intended as A, covers 1865-1887. B begins with 1884 and is followed by five others to date.

In addition to election returns, Volume A also contains some executive proclamations, orders, etc. First entry, November 25, 1865, gives result, tabulated by counties, of election for Congressman and several State officials. For Congress, Ferdinand McLeod received 2,192 votes, a plurality out of 5,040. Congressional election of 1868, total vote 11,539. Election (1876) returns for State officials, Presidential electors, and Congressman. Details given by counties. First count gave Republican candidates a majority. Signed only by James B. McLin, secretary of state, and A. C. Cowgill, comptroller. Followed by returns for Presidential electors as made out by the new returning board under a special act of the legislature. Gives Democratic electors a majority. Hardly so much as a hint is given of the stirring times then on. Some of the later volumes contain notices of elections, copies of returns from the counties, commissions of appointments to fill vacancies, newspaper clippings giving tabulated results of elections. For the last three years the original returns have been preserved and bound together, the secretary of state simply tabulating the result.

Registration of voters, 1867 (basement). Printed forms, including the "iron-clad oath," with space for names of voters. Most of the volumes contain space for 1,000 names; the others for 500. Some distinguish by color. For example, in Jefferson County there were 143 white and 226 colored voters; in Columbia County there were 1,168 voters. A few in this county had been marked out as not allowed to vote. The heaviest registration appears to have been in the black belt. Leon County had 3,490 votes and Madison 2,104. Escambia had only 954 and St. Johns 423, though it is possible that some returns from these counties were missing.

Articles of incorporation, January, 1874, to date, six volumes. There is some overlapping of dates. For example, one covers 1874-1884 and another 1876-1893. Index found in separate volume.

Letters Patent, A to E, October 14, 1890-May 10, 1904, five volumes.

Registration of automobiles, 1905-6.

Registration of chauffeurs, 1905-6.

Records of sales of public lands, May, 1825-March, 1826. Gives names of purchaser and amount paid. September 26, 1826, deposited \$19,031,655 in Bank of Mobile to the credit of the United States Treasurer.

Preemption entries, 1827; credit sales of public lands, 1827, in same volume.

Total sales, first quarter.....	\$57, 610. 41
Incidental expenses.....	451. 00
Register's commission of 1 per cent on receipts.....	576. 09
My own commission at 1 per cent on \$70,382.51.....	703. 82
Total.....	2, 730. 91
Paid surveyor.....	* 1, 000. 00

Volume closes April, 1831 (vault).

Records of preempted lands, 1888-89 (vault).

Commissioner of deeds, No. 1, 1905 to date.

Mortgages, A, June 30, 1890-February 17, 1905.

Mortgages (railroads), B, August, 1900-1906.

Deeds of State property, 1903 to date.

Trade-marks, A, 1902-1906.

* Figures given as found.

Journal of the Constitutional Convention at St. Joseph (a town no longer in existence) (vault). Began December 3, 1838. Last entry in the journal under date of December 26. That day the convention adopted a resolution that all land should be taxed according to value.^a The journal is incomplete. In 1845 Governor Mosely directed that the original manuscript be deposited with the secretary of state, but no trace of it was found. This was the convention which formed the constitution under which the State was admitted in 1845.

Journal of the Convention of the People of Florida (vault). Met January 3, 1861. John C. McGehee elected president January 5. His speech is recorded; also the prayer of the chaplain. Ordinance of secession adopted January 10; yeas, 62; nays, 7. Joseph A. Collier and S. S. Alderman explained that they favored awaiting the action of Georgia and Alabama, but after the convention decided against this, they voted for the ordinance "to prevent any injurious effects which might arise from a large negative vote being recorded against secession." January 21 the convention took a recess subject to recall by the president, or by the governor in case of disability of the president. April 18 it was called together to adopt the Confederate constitution, elect delegates to the provisional congress and adopt a State constitution. Also takes up the question of internal improvements, revealing the fact that 416 miles of railroad had been put in operation within the last five years. April 27, adjourns sine die, unless reassembled by the president on or before December 25. January, 1862, meets again to consider the financial condition of the State. Names of two persons who had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States are stricken from the roll of membership. Final adjournment January 27, 1862.

Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1885, vol. 2 (vault). Begins with the afternoon session of the thirty-ninth day, July 25. Adjourned August 5, 1885. The first volume was not found. Neither was any trace found of any records of the constitutional convention of 1868.

Census returns. Original returns from Hernando and Marion counties, 1855; for 1867, Madison, Orange, and Santa Rosa counties (vault). For 1875, original returns from 17 counties (basement). Gives name of every person residing in the county, age, sex, color, and profession. Also value of real and personal property, number of acres planted in cotton, corn, and sugar cane; number of orange trees, and number bearing. For 1875, returns from 22 counties. This is a census of male inhabitants 21 years of age, giving color, nationality, number not naturalized, and number not registered; also school attendance and number of illiterates (basement). Compilation of foregoing (vault). Compiler failed to fill in names of counties. For 1885, list of persons, giving place of abode, color, sex, and age, one volume.

School census, 1896, six volumes (five in the basement and one in the vault); for 1900, 14 counties (ten in basement and four in vault).

Comptroller's book, July, 1845-January, 1861 (vault).

Comptroller's letters, 1861-1867 (vault).

Auditor's report, 1831-1845 (vault).

Treasurer's account book, 1866-1880, three volumes (vault); 1876 and 1877 missing.

Record of Treasury notes, 1861-1865 (vault). October, December, issued \$23,758 worth of two-dollar bills, series B; three destroyed March 22, 1862; \$13,362 worth of three-dollar bills; \$288,000 of one-hundred-dollar Treasury notes. October, 1861-February, 1863, \$6,009.90 of ten-cent notes; \$15,024.75 of

^a Hitherto it had been divided into three classes and taxed at so much per acre.

twenty-five-cent notes; \$30,049.50 of fifty-cent notes. March, 1863, \$21,956 of one-dollar notes; \$21,956 of two-dollar notes; \$32,934 of three-dollar notes; \$70,560 of five-dollar notes; \$152,600 of ten-dollar notes. January 1, 1865, \$40,000 of fifty-dollar notes; ^a \$120,000 of one-hundred-dollar notes; \$190,000 of five-hundred-dollar notes. April, 1865, received for signature \$363,600 of the denominations, \$50, \$100, and \$500. April 26, returned to the Treasury \$13,600. April 27, burned \$115.05 as defective in signing.^b

Warrants and receipts, 1856-57 (vault).

Criminal, trial, and chancery dockets, 1840 (vault). Evidently out of place.

Miscellaneous records, 1845-1865. Contains bonds of comptroller, commutations, pardons, proclamations, election returns, and census returns.

May 26, 1846, the Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company presented five of its bonds, guaranteed by the Territory, to be canceled.

October 12, 1852, a proclamation taking the Indian chief under protection because outlawed by his tribe for acting as guide to the United States troops.

Whole number of votes for Congressmen, 1852, 9,166.

Election returns by counties, 1856. Total vote for the Democratic electors, 6,308; for the opposition, 4,833.

September 7, 1859, Governor M. S. Perry made an appointment "of the independence of the United States the eighty-fourth year, and of the independence of Florida the fifteenth year."

In 1860, several proclamations to apprehend negro slaves, one charged with assault on a white man, one from Georgia charged with arson, and one from Alabama charged with stealing.

January 5, 1861, order by Governor Perry to seize arsenal, arms, and ammunition of United States on Apalachicola River.

February 2, 1863, election returns for Congressmen (Confederate). Total vote, first district, 2,871. No returns from six counties. Returns from soldiers located in six different places out of the State.

October 5, 1863, another Congressional election. Five candidates. Total vote, 3,381. No returns from two counties and two rejected. Second district, four candidates. Total vote, 3,675. One county rejected. Returns from soldiers in several camps.

November 2, 1864, letter of governor reveals the fact that some county officers in Duval had been captured. An informal election had been held to fill the vacancies. The governor held that capture did not create a vacancy, unless the officers had gone over to the enemy willingly.

Last entry, February 23, 1865, notes the appointment of Neil Hendry as trustee to provide for relief of families of soldiers and of others needing assistance.

This volume also contains a description of the Florida flag:^c

^a Signed by the secretary for the governor.

^b The actual number of names written in signing the treasury notes, as computed by the secretary, was 721,188. The number signed in series B was 180,297.

^c "The one half of the Flag next to the Staff is blue; the other half has alternately one red, one white, one red stripe. Each stripe [three in all] of equal width and perpendicular to the staff. [The stripes are the same as the Confederate stripes, only they form one half the Flag.] On the blue ground, and occupying somewhat more than one half of it is an Elliptical band [the axis of the ellipsis is in the proportion of fifteen to thirteen, the longitudinal axis parallel with the Flag Staff] bearing superiorly 'In God is our Trust' — Inferiorly — Florida — making as it were — a frame for the Shield. In the center of the Ellipse is a single strong live Oak Tree. Beyond it is seen the Gulf of Mexico, with vessels in the distance. In front and near the foot of the Oak is a piece of Field Artillery. Beyond the gun, and resting against the boll of the Oak, is a second stand of six colors—the Confederate and State Flags, to the front. To the left of the Field piece are four Muskets stacked. To the right and near, balls piled, and a drum." The description is followed by the statement that the flag had been deposited in the executive chamber. Signed by M. S. Perry, governor.

Legislative Papers.

Engrossed copies of Territorial and State laws, September 16, 1822, to date, 70 volumes (vault). The supreme court library has a complete set of the printed laws. No complete set found elsewhere.

Legislative journals, 6 volumes, in same vault with the engrossed laws; rest in another vault across the hall. Incomplete. The earlier ones are missing; also some of the later volumes. The State does not appear to have a complete set of the printed journals. The earliest found was for 1836, in the office of the secretary of state. Putting those in this office with those in the governor's office, the file is nearly complete to the civil war; 1840 missing, but may be found among the originals. For the later years the assistant secretary assured the writer that the printed copies were more accurate, as the written copies were made from these.

Minutes of legislative committees, only a few volumes.

Report of special committee on Territorial bonds. In 1868 the constitutional convention passed an ordinance directing the governor to appoint a committee to investigate the affairs of the Union Bank and report upon the liability of the State for the bonds issued by the Territory for the benefit of this bank in 1834, 1836, and 1838. The committee was appointed, made its report, and drew its pay, but it does not appear that any attention was ever paid to the report by the governor or the legislature. The chairman of the committee was Hon. J. T. Bernard, and the original of the report is still in his possession. The first part of the report simply rehashes reports of legislative committees made in 1840 and 1842. The committee conclude that the Territorial governor and legislature had no authority to issue these bonds, and that they were void ab initio. Neither the United States nor the State of Florida is under any obligations to pay them, yet the honor of each requires that some effort be made to satisfy the claims. They recite that the United States still possess several million acres of land in Florida, and they recommend giving the bondholders 1 acre of land for ever dollar's worth of bonds.^a

Newspapers.

The Pensacola Gazette and West Florida Advertiser, March 13, 1824-July 28, 1829, two volumes. Apparently complete for those years.

Two volumes of odd numbers of fourteen different papers published at Pensacola, Quincy, Apalachicola, St. Joseph, Tallahassee, and St. Augustine. They range from 1838 to 1846. These papers, especially the continuous files of the Pensacola Gazette, are valuable, as they contain the proceedings of the legislative council, laws, etc., with occasional illuminating notes. They also give ordinances of town councils, some of which probably can not be found elsewhere. For example, in 1838, the council of Apalachicola passed an ordinance taxing lawyers and physicians \$10; every male 21 years of age and thirty days a resident, \$2; every slave 10 to 60 years of age, \$2; and every free person of color, \$25. The same ordinance was repeated in 1840.^b Election returns may be found also. In 1827 the total vote for Delegate to Congress was 1,300.^c

^a Judge Bernard said the move was part of a scheme of the carpetbaggers to make something out of the bonds. At that time Dr. Charles J. English had charge of the assets of the bank, which suspended long before the war. When he was summoned to appear and produce the assets he disappeared, declaring that the carpetbaggers should not make anything out of it. The writer was unable to locate any of the records of the bank in Tallahassee.

^b Apalachicola Gazette, March 1, 1838, June 23, 1840.

^c Pensacola Gazette, May 18, 1827.

No attempt was made to examine the archives of any other office at the capitol. A clerk who had been in the comptroller's office twenty years and whose father had been there before him was sure that they had nothing antedating 1870. The Hon. W. H. Mabry, clerk of the supreme court, formerly a member, keeps the court records in good shape. No effort was made to see whether the earlier records had been preserved. Soon after the State was admitted to the Union Mr. E. A. Thompson, a member of the supreme court, was appointed to codify the laws and also to codify the laws of England in force in the colonies in 1776. The former was published, the latter was not. It is still preserved in very neat manuscript, and was shown to the writer by Judge Mabry.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL, UNITED STATES.

These records are mentioned in connection with those of the State because, though not in the hands of State officials at present, they probably will be soon. At the time of the writer's visit the surveyor-general, Hon. S. B. Chapin, was absent, but the assistant in charge showed every courtesy of attention. The office is located in the post-office building. Some time ago President Roosevelt ordered the abolition of the office and the transfer of the records to the secretary of state. Not being able to take proper care of his own records, the secretary of state secured a modification of the order, making it effective in July, 1907, in order to give the legislature an opportunity to provide a place for the records. The presumption is that they will be located in or near the capitol. At present they are nicely arranged in a fireproof vault. They consist of:

Miscellaneous matter, ten volumes in one set. Two volumes, marked A, B, consists of translations of Spanish records, 1781-1821, made under the act of Congress of March 3, 1825, and begun at Pensacola July 25, 1827. Among the other volumes may be found copies of grants made by the Spanish governors and memorials on which grants were based (in Spanish), report of the land commissioner and register of claims for East Florida, and the report of the register of land claims, giving evidence in support of claims. The last was printed in the American State Papers.

Private claims in West Florida, giving synoptic history of private claims presented for confirmation. Indexed. The same for East Florida, three volumes.

Claims, 1790, a few unbound papers.

Field notes, 1821, sixty-three volumes, about 18 by 10 inches; 194 volumes, about 10 by 4 inches, all belonging to the same set. All leather bound.

Field notes of surveys, nineteen volumes, very large. Contain plots.

Boundary line between Alabama and Florida, surveyed in 1799-1800 by Andrew Ellicott and resurveyed by D. F. Whitner, 1853-54.

Georgia and Florida boundary line, beginning at the eighty-sixth meridian. (This, of course, is west of Georgia.) Many small plots.

Surveys of numerous keys.

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